

S. J. R. No. 8.]

JOINT RESOLUTION.

To amend Section 8 (three), of Article XI (11), of the Constitution of the State of Texas, so as to authorize certain counties to give aid in the construction of railways.

SECTION 1. *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:* That Section 3, of Article XI, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, be amended so that the same shall hereafter read as follows:

Section 3. No county, city or other municipal corporation shall hereafter become a subscriber to the capital of any corporation or association, or make any appropriation or donation to the same, or in any wise loan its credit, except as hereinafter provided.

It shall be lawful for any county in this State lying south of the counties of Jeff Davis, Reeves, Ward, Ector, Midland, Glasscock, Sterling, Coke and Runnels, and south and west of the Colorado river; also, all those counties west of Hardeman, Knox and Haskell, and north of Fisher, Scurry, Borden, Dawson and Gaines; also, the counties of Matagorda and Brazoria, to give aid, by and through its commissioners' court, by the issue of bonds of such county, or other evidences of indebtedness, in the construction of a standard gauge railway or railways into, through or across any such county, when, by a vote of the majority of the qualified voters of any such county, voting at an election held for that purpose, such aid is authorized.

Provided, however, that no such aid as is hereinbefore authorized and provided for shall ever be given or paid to any railroad company, or in aid of any such railway construction, except in proportion to and for such railway or part thereof as shall have been completely constructed and equipped within any such county. And special authority and power is hereby given the commissioners' court of any county within the territory herein prescribed, wherein such aid may be authorized, to levy and collect an annual tax, in addition to any other tax authorized by this Constitution, upon all property in such county subject to taxation, to pay interest on and to create a sinking fund to meet said bonds or other indebtedness created for such purpose; provided, that the aggregate of such tax, in any county, shall never in any one year exceed two per centum upon the assessed valuation of the property in such county.

Full power is hereby given to said commissioners' court of any such county, and it is hereby made its duty, at once, upon the petition thereto of not less than one hundred (100) qualified voters of any such county to at any time order and in all things provide for and regulate such election, and the holding, returns, and determination of the same, and prescribe the form of the ballot to be used.

All bonds or other evidences of indebtedness, issued by any such county under the provisions of this section, shall, before being delivered, negotiated or floated, be approved by the Attorney General of this State, and thereupon the Comptroller of this State shall register the same and endorse the fact of such registry upon said bonds or evidences of indebtedness.

SEC. 2. The Governor is hereby directed to issue the necessary proclamation for submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of Texas on the first Tuesday in August, 1897; at which election all voters favor-

ing the amendment shall have written or printed on their tickets, "For the Amendment to Section 3, of Article XI, of the Constitution of Texas, authorizing all counties in this State lying south of the counties of Jeff Davis, Reeves, Ward, Ector, Midland, Glasscock, Sterling, Coke and Runnels, and south and west of the Colorado river; also, all those counties west of Hardeman, Knox and Haskell, and north of Fisher, Scurry, Borden, Dawson and Gaines; also the counties of Matagorda and Brazoria, to give aid in the construction of railroads by the issuance of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness, when authorized thereto by a majority vote of any such county;" and those opposed to said amendment shall have written or printed on their tickets, "Against the Amendment to Section 3, of Article XI, of the Constitution of Texas, authorizing all counties in this State lying south of the counties of Jeff Davis, Reeves, Ward, Ector, Midland, Glasscock, Sterling, Coke and Runnels, and south and west of the Colorado river; also, all those counties west of Hardeman, Knox and Haskell, and north of Fisher, Scurry, Borden, Dawson and Gaines; also, the counties of Matagorda and Brazoria, to give aid in the construction of railroads, by the issuance of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness, when authorized thereto by a majority vote of any such county."

[NOTE.—The foregoing joint resolution passed the Senate by a two-thirds vote, yeas 25, nays 2; and having passed the House with amendments, and being referred to a free conference committee, the report of said committee was adopted by both houses, the vote in the Senate being yeas 22, nays none. The certificate of the Chief Clerk of the House does not give the vote on passage of this joint resolution, or on adoption of the free conference report.]

[NOTE.—The foregoing joint resolution was presented to the Governor of Texas for his approval, on Tuesday, the sixth day of April, A. D. 1897, but was not signed by him nor returned to the house in which it originated, with his objections thereto within the time prescribed by the Constitution, and thereupon became a law without his signature.—J. W. MADDEN, Secretary of State.]

H. J. R. No. 20.] JOINT RESOLUTION.

To amend Article XI, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, by adding thereto Section 11.

Whereas, the laws of the State of Texas authorize the several counties in this State, through their commissioners' court, to issue bonds for the erection of court houses and jails, and the construction and purchase of bridges; and

Whereas, the statutes of the State of Texas authorize the board of education of said State to invest the permanent school fund thereof in bonds issued for the purposes aforesaid by the said counties; and

Whereas, the board of education of this State, in pursuance of said statutory authority, has purchased as an investment for the permanent school fund of the State of Texas, bonds approximating three million dollars; and